

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 036824  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PA--JACOON:DE  
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS  
S/S-O:TMARTIN  
T:JNYE (DRAFT)  
S/AS:RKELLYDRAFT)  
OES/NET:RDEMING (DRAFT)  
PM/NPP:ALOCKE (DRAFT)  
EUR/WE:EBEIGEL (DRAFT)  
L/OES:RBETTAUER (DRAFT)  
ACDA:CVANDOREN (DRAFT)

-----117828 110300Z /62

O P 110243Z PEB 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 036824

NODIS  
FOR AMBASSADORS HUMMEL AND HARTMAN , WH FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MNUC, PK, FR, US

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 858; (B) STATE 19295

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ONLY  
IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU ABREAST OF OUR THINKING.

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2. SINCE FRANCE FIRST PROPOSED IDEA OF A MODIFIED RE-  
PROCESSING PLANT IT HAS BEEN OUR HOPE THAT PAKISTAN'S RE-  
JECTION OF SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE FRANCE WITH  
ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT. HOW-  
EVER, THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR PAKISTAN'S ACCEPTANCE  
OF THEIR MODIFIED PROPOSAL. WE NOTE THAT THE CO-PROCESSING

MODE -- IF THIS IS INDEED WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND -- HAS YET TO BE DESIGNED. A JOINT FRENCH-PAKISTANI STUDY OF A REDESIGNED FACILITY COULD STRETCH OUT OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS.

3. WHILE WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY RESERVE FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL UNTIL WE KNOW MORE PRECISELY THE NATURE OF THE MODIFIED DESIGN, IT APPEARS THAT CO-PROCESSING IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, GIRAUD HAD TOLD NYE LAST OCTOBER THAT THE FRENCH DID NOT PUT MUCH FAITH IN SIMPLE CO-PROCESSING BUT WERE LOOKING TO SOME FORM OF "HOT" CO-PROCESSING. AS AMBASSADOR SMITH INDICATED TO JACOMET (REF B) WE SEE SOME NON-PROLIFERATION ADVANTAGE IN "HOT" CO-PROCESSING AS COMPARED WITH PUREX, BUT NOT RADICAL IMPROVEMENT. CO-PROCESSING WOULD NOT BE A SOLUTION TO THE PAKISTAN PROBLEM, AND COULD SET A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT THAT WE WOULD REGARD AS INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY AND WOULD PREJUDGE INFCE WHICH IS LOOKING AT A WIDE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND INSTITUTIONS.

4. IT APPEARS THAT CO-PROCESSING WOULD NOT AVOID APPLICATION OF THE GLENN AMENDMENT TO PAKISTAN WITH CONSEQUENT TERMINATION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT A CLAUSE IN THE GLENN AMENDMENT PROVIDES THAT THE TRANSFER OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES COULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF TECHNOLOGIES WHICH ARE ALTERNATIVES TO PURE PLUTONIUM

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REPROCESSING IF SUCH STUDIES ARE PURSUED IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION PROGRAMS AND WITH U.S. PARTICIPATION. ANY POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF THIS CLAUSE WOULD NEED TO BE CAREFULLY EXPLORED AND WE WOULD NEED TO ASSURE THAT ITS USE WOULD NOT HAVE UNDESIRABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR BROADER NON-PROLIFERATION CONCERNS.

5. WE ATTACH OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO NOT TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE SEEN AS UNDERCUTTING THE FRENCH OR WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE FRENCH DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CONFIDENTIALITY. AMBASSADOR SMITH WILL BE IN PARIS FEBRUARY 15. HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH JACOMET AND OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS MAY YIELD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

6. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE COMMERCIAL LOSSES FRANCE MAY FACE IN THE EVENT OF TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD BE COMPETING WITH THE FRENCH FOR ANY POWER REACTOR SALE SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN AND, GIVEN THE REQUIREMENTS IN OUR NEW LEGISLATION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD BE CONCLUDING SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN

THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE  
LIKELIHOOD THAT AN AMERICAN FIRM WOULD BE INTERESTED IN  
REPLACING THE FRENCH IN THE TRUCK ASSEMBLY DEAL. ON THE  
OTHER HAND, WE MAY BE SELLING PAKISTAN A BOEING 747-200B  
(COMBINATION PASSENGER/FREIGHT). A LOAN APPLICATION FOR  
THIS SALE IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY EXIM.

7. WE HAVE ASKED LAWRENCE-LIVERMORE LABORATORY TO UNDER-  
TAKE A STUDY OF PAKISTAN'S CAPABILITY TO GO IT ALONE IN  
CONSTRUCTING THE REPROCESSING PLANT IF THE FRENCH CON-  
TRACT IS CANCELLED. LAWRENCE-LIVERMORE WILL ALSO EXAMINE  
OTHER COVERT METHODS-- APART FROM THE CONVENTIONAL RE-

PROCESSING PLANT-- WHICH THE PAKISTANIS MIGHT CONSIDER IN  
ORDER TO SEPARATE OUT WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM FOR AN  
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EXPLOSIVE PROGRAM. VANCE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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